



Policy Title: Independent Advisory Group (Local and Strategic)

Date Published/Reviewed: April 19

Business Lead: Superintendent Local Policing

CCMT sponsor: ACC Local Policing

The College of Policing undertakes its own equality impact assessment and ECHR review. This policy has been reviewed for any local variance and has no additional impact. Thames Valley Police ensures that all policies have been assessed and comply with MoPI Guidance, and the Data Protection Act 2018.

1.0 About this Policy

1.1 Rationale

1.1.1 The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) recognised that independent advice is especially valuable in relation to critical incidents, major incidents and in the development of processes and procedures. The 1998 Stephen Lawrence Inquiry recommended the involvement of local people in policing and Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs) have been acknowledged as good practice by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in their reports 'Policing London – Winning Consent' and 'Winning the Race'. It has also been recognised in these papers that IAGs have the potential to help prevent events developing into critical incidents.

1.1.2 The College of Policing state in their 2015 guidance document that 'the role of an IAG is to help us to build insight into the needs, wants and assets of the groups who are under-represented in our normal decision making processes. We use this insight to shape our service for the benefit of all our communities and engender trust and confidence "IAGs enable us to create a genuine partnership with our communities. IAGs are independent only in relation to their views."'

1.2 Legislation/National Standards

- The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- The Data Protection Act 2018
- The Freedom of Information Act 2000
- The Regulation of Investigatory Powers 2000
- The Human Rights Act 1998

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– The Equality Act 2010

1.3 Intention

1.3.1 Thames Valley Police (TVP) aims to provide a more effective and responsive service by capturing the views of individuals, organisations and communities at both tactical and strategic levels. This is undertaken in a variety of ways at both local and force level and the Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs) have been established to meet this aim.

1.3.2 The aim of this policy is to provide guidance for the establishment, administration, conduct and maintenance of IAGs at both a force and local level.

1.3.3 It will also clarify the remit of the IAG members as Independent Critical Incident Advisors.

1.4 General Principles

1.4.1 The College of Policing have identified a number of key components in their 2015 guidance (College of Policing - Independent Advisory Groups) which should form the basis of any initial discussions to establish a new IAG and any reviews of current IAGs.

1.4.2 IAG and TVP members involved should follow the general principles set out below to ensure a successful IAG:

- Understand Role
 - Understand the significance of IAGs and their impact on service delivery and ways of working
 - Act in accordance with the Code of Ethics
- Improve Policing
 - Maintain mutual respect and trust
 - Truly listen and learn
 - Create an environment in which IAG members have the confidence and space to express their own views
 - Ensure IAG members understand Police business
- Confidence of Communities
 - Select members carefully
 - Get the people from the community to nominate IAG members
- Produce outcomes
 - Be transparent
 - Learn and change
 - People at the right level need to be listening
- Represent the Young
 - Make it relevant to the young
 - Have people representing the young on the IAGs
 - Align to other schemes such as the Cadet Scheme
- Dynamic and Evolving
 - Change membership and discussion to reflect emerging topics

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- Periodically review membership of IAGs to consider whether they are effective and representative

2.0 Statement of Policy

2.1 Thames Valley Police is committed to providing a policing service that recognises and meets the needs of all communities within the Thames Valley.

2.2 The aims of the TVP IAGs are:

1. To maximise the trust and confidence of the diverse community of the Thames Valley through communication, exchanges of views and discussion of policing issues
2. To provide a forum for the community to help shape service delivery
3. To enable TVP to develop policies and procedures that are both accessible and transparent
4. To increase our engagement with diverse communities and help expand the potential for community resilience through the Neighbourhood Policing plan

Governance and Structure

2.3 The table below sets out the governance and structure required for the four IAG types which are required. Further details on recruitment, expectations and problem solving are available in the appendices.

Area of Work	Strategic IAG	Local IAG	Specialist (eg. Stop and Search, Hate Crime, Children and Young People)	Critical Incident IAGs
Purpose	To review, discuss and provide independent views on force policies, processes, activity and changes. To enable engagement with community groups at a strategic or local level.			To support community engagement and advise on community impact following a critical incident. Help identify and advise on the best ways to access hard-to-reach or hard-to-hear community groups affected by the incident.

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Overall Lead	ACC Local Policing	Local Police Area (LPA) Commander	ACC Local Policing	Called at the discretion of the GOLD or SILVER Commander.
TVP Role	To support the group by booking dates and venues when at a TVP owned location, taking and distributing summary notes or minutes (all documents should be de-personalised), managing member information, providing data for agenda items, inviting key personnel for new areas of work for discussion, support recruitment, manage non-attendance and provide training/input on expectations.			
Chair Role	The chair should be chosen from the members of the IAG and should receive a majority vote from the group to take up the role. Their role is to book venues when a non TVP location is required, chair the meetings, lead discussions and votes (if required), support recruitment, manage non-attendance and liaise with the overall lead to agree agenda items and information required.		The chair will be the Overall Lead, their role will be to chair the meetings and lead discussions as well as ensure membership is appropriate for the location and incident.	
Recruitment	The members of the IAG should be reflective of the force area and should reside/work/have a significant interest in force or LPA boundaries. Recruitment responsibility sits with the overall lead and Chair with applications possible through the force website or via invitation. Vetting screening will be required for all members.		Members should be drawn from existing IAGs. In addition, key local figures may be invited to attend where their input will have a constructive impact on discussions. Vetting screening will be required for all members.	
Training	No specific training should be required for IAG members but an input on the Code of Ethics and Management of Police Information would be advisable.		It is good practice to provide IAGs with training on critical incident management. Bespoke training is now available to them through the College of	

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				Policing Leadership.
Tenure	All members should have a tenure of four years with an option to request a further tenure at the end of this period. Granting a further tenure is the responsibility of the Overall Lead and Chair and should be based on the members attendance, contribution and the make up of the existing membership group. A tenure of four years should also be in place with Chair role. At the end of that period, they should either revert to members or petition the Overall Lead and group for a further tenure period.			As membership of this IAG is incident specific there is no tenure requirement.
Frequency of meetings	Quarterly			As required
Location of meetings	HQ and non TVP Location as deemed appropriate to TVP and Chair	LPA Station and non TVP Location as deemed appropriate to TVP and Chair	HQ and non TVP Location as deemed appropriate to TVP and Chair	LPA Station or venue close to the incident
Problem Solving	Any issues around misconduct or attendance should be dealt in line with Appendix B of this policy.			

3.0 Human Rights Articles Engaged

This policy has the potential to engage the following articles:

- Article 8 – Privacy and related matters
- Article 9 – Religion and Belief
- Article 10 – Freedom of expression

4.0 Health and Safety at Work

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and associated legislation requires all force personnel and IAG members to be mindful of health and safety when visiting force premises. All visitors to premises controlled by TVP should be made aware of the local arrangements for managing relevant aspects of the TVP Health and Safety Risk Assessments for:

- Fire
- First Aid
- Reporting of accidents (including incidents or near misses)

5.0 Communications, Challenges and Representations

5.1 Communication

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Any challenges or queries regarding this policy should be directed to:

Chief Superintendent Local Policing
Thames Valley Police Headquarters
Oxford Road
Kidlington
Oxford
OX5 2NX

5.2 Challenges and representation

The content of this policy will be communicated to all members of TVP through the intranet and internet sites. It will also be circulated to all current IAG members through the ACC or LPA Commanders as appropriate.

The policy will be published on the force website for public access.

6.0 Review Date

April 2020

7.0 Related Guidance

Appendix A – Recruitment and Membership
Appendix B – Code of Conduct and Problem Solving Procedures
Appendix C - Information sharing
Appendix D – Template IAG Application Form

8.0 Freedom of information

Suitable for publication.

9.0 Government Security Classification Policy

Official

10.0 Relevant Supporting information

College of Policing - Independent Advisory Groups